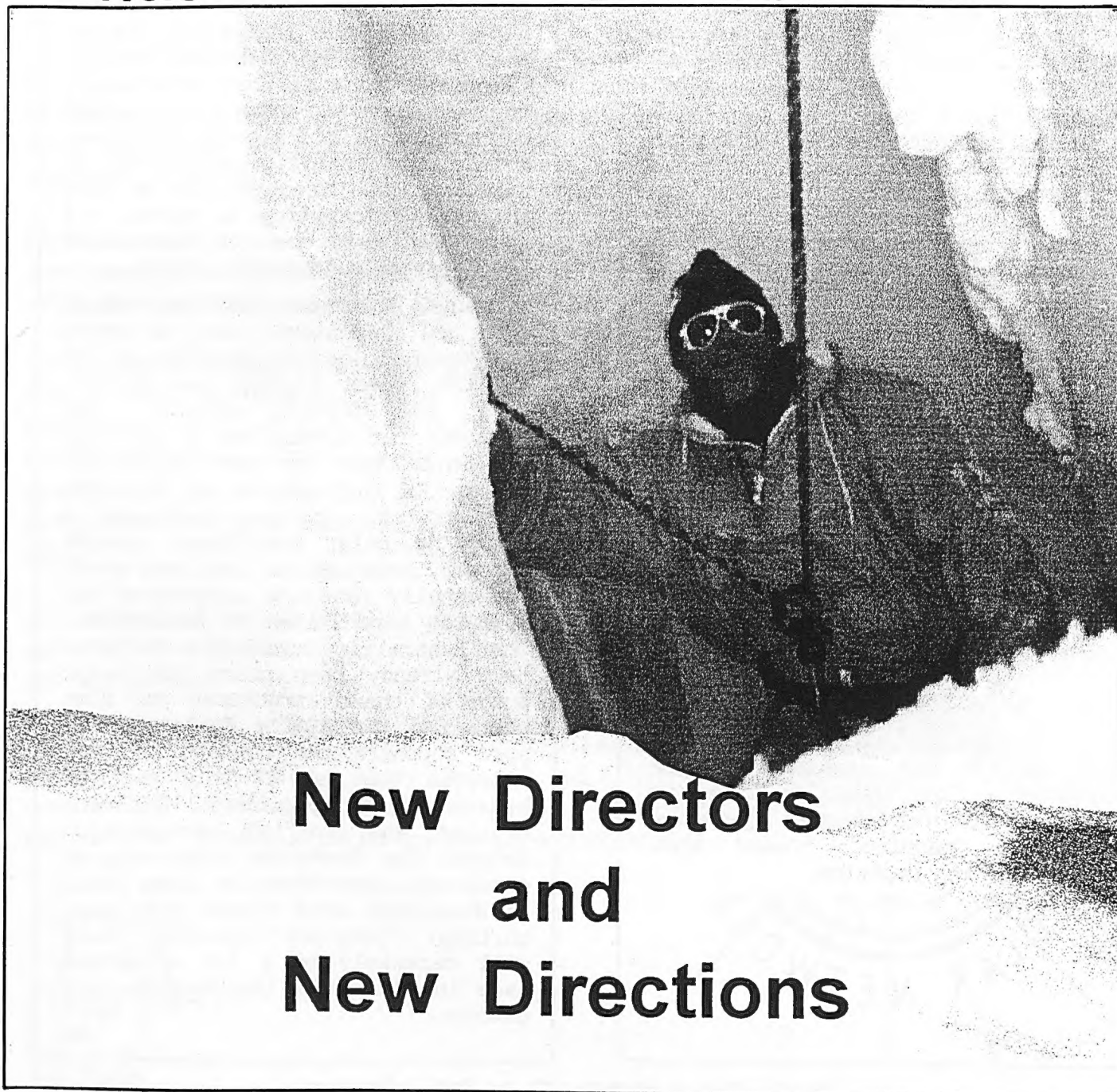


# ICE BREAKER

No.5

December 1998



**New Directors  
and  
New Directions**

# ICE BREAKER

ICE BREAKER is published independently by Malcolm Wallhead and Associates as a quarterly magazine covering Tasmanian Polar and Southern Ocean related topics.

EDITOR  
MALCOLM WALLHEAD

PRODUCTION CO-ORDINATOR  
ANTHEA WALLHEAD

Comments and contributions for inclusion in future editions are most welcome. Please address them to:-

EDITOR, ICE BREAKER  
MALCOLM WALLHEAD AND ASSOCIATES  
240 WATSONS ROAD  
KETTERING, TASMANIA, 7155

PHONE: 03 6267 4774  
FAX : 03 6267 4335

Unless specifically stated otherwise, the views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of any group, organisation, or institution.

ICE BREAKER is published in good faith and contributors should ensure the truth of any facts stated.



TASMANIAN

ICE BREAKER has succumbed to the computer and our thanks go to Robert Wallhead for his devoted operation of this "machine" toward this edition of the magazine.



POLAR NETWORK

# EDITORIAL

New Directors, those people who direct the course of decision making, have taken over the reins of the State Government, the Australian Antarctic Division, the Tasmanian Polar Network and several other positions in polar related activities. With so many changes taking place in only a three month period, it is increasingly important for those people with longer experience in polar affairs to assist and help guide the new Directors in their choice of decisions. In situations such as this, advice will be sure to be fast and flowing, but in the end it is still the Directors' choice that will be the deciding factor. The best advice is that which comes from experience, experience backed up with facts and figures and presented in an intelligible manner. In this way the Directors can be sure that the information is sound, and sound decisions can be determined for Tasmania's Antarctic future.

With new directors and new ideas come new directions, many of which are covered in this edition of ICE BREAKER. These include new directions for Hobart Airport, new premises for CCAMLR and a new type of winter base for the Chilean Air Force. The acquisition of this new base by the Chileans indicates a trend by polar institutes towards cheaper, more mobile, and less environmentally damaging structures for research expeditions to Antarctica. The Australian Antarctic Division have already been using the basic forms of these structures for some years and the ASAC's Foresight Report supports the concept and encourages the use of this sort of base in future operations. With controlled and unified co-operation amongst the Tasmanian polar-related community, such bases as these could be developed into almost self-supporting, "turn-key" systems. There will certainly be a lot of effort made in attempting to realise this concept.

MW

Cover: From a photograph by Rod Ledingham.

# TPN HEAD LINES

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this my first "President's Message" in *Ice Breaker* Magazine, I would like to thank the TPN Members for the confidence shown in me in electing me to this position of leadership. As President, I recognise the need to lead the Network in a manner which is truly representative of its membership and will do so to the best of my ability, taking account of the different interests we have in matters to do with Antarctica.

Our interests range from scientific to environmental to commercial, a challenging mix, I think! Wherever we stand we all share the vision of what Antarctic affairs can do for, and with, Hobart. Together, we recognise the uniqueness of that potential and we seek as a Network to realise it fully within the necessary constraints of time, resource and role which we all recognise as individuals of a Collective Body.

With combined thought and effort I believe we can continue to achieve much building on the good foundations already established. Our efforts will continue to be enhanced due to the Premier's recent endorsement of the bipartisan approach which has favoured our endeavours to date.

Hobart is unique in both its port, infrastructure/facilities and its geographic position. I look forward to working with all TPN Members to further develop our competitive advantages for the betterment of our State and Community and Antarctica. I will always welcome advice and suggestions from anyone to assist me in the conduct of my responsibilities as President.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the efforts of Jim Playsted as my predecessor and convey the Network's thanks to Jim for his enthusiastic and thoughtful input as Chairman. I look forward to Jim's continued contribution, albeit at a necessarily reduced level, as a Vice President and Member of the TPN.

Bill Lawson  
**PRESIDENT**

November 1998

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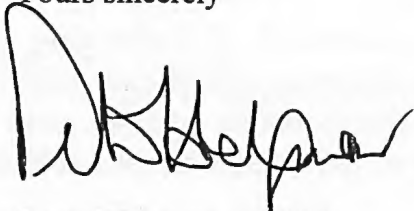
After seven years as Minister for Antarctic Affairs, I am now in Opposition as Shadow Minister for Antarctic Affairs, so I am pleased my involvement in the Portfolio will continue.

As Minister I believed that it was vital to have a bipartisan attitude, so that no matter who is in Government, continuity and confidence would continue. I am pleased that Premier Jim Bacon is continuing the practice and I publicly congratulate him accordingly.

The status Hobart has of being Australia's Antarctic capital has not been won easily and we must all work hard and together to protect it.

On behalf of the Opposition I wish to give the Polar Network an absolute commitment that we will treat the Antarctic seriously, and we will work Co-operatively with all those involved the development of Antarctic Opportunities.

Yours sincerely



**Peter Hodgman MHA**  
**Shadow Minister**  
**Antarctic Affairs**

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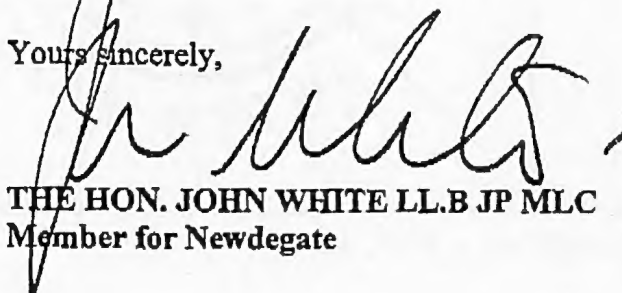
I am not only pleased that the Labor Party has won majority Government, but also that the Premier has taken the portfolio of Antarctic Affairs, which gives weight and importance to the portfolio.

I was also pleased to hear the Premier announce the Government's intention of continuing the bi-partisanship approach to Antarctic Affairs and that Peter Hodgman is continuing as the Liberal Party's spokesperson in this important portfolio area.

The Labor Government will be looking for suggestions from the Tasmanian Polar Network as to how the Government can improve both business and intergovernmental relationships with other Antarctic Nations to ensure that no opportunity is lost.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,



**THE HON. JOHN WHITE LL.B JP MLC**  
**Member for Newdegate**

## From The Director Of The Australian Antarctic Division

I appreciate the invitation to make a contribution to Ice Breaker.

I come to the position of Director of the Australian Antarctic Division with a sense of excitement. Many challenges face the Australian Program in the lead up to the year 2000 and one of my priorities will be to progress the current assessment of Australia's future Antarctic transport arrangements.

I have been made very welcome since taking up the position and my family and I look forward to settling into this friendly and supportive community.

I take this opportunity to wish the retiring Director of the Australian Antarctic Division, Rex Moncur and his wife Meryl, the very best for the future. Known to many of you in Tasmania's Antarctic community, Rex worked tirelessly during his time as Director to consolidate Australia's Antarctic Program and its high profile position in the international Antarctic arena.

I am quickly coming to know the meaning of the 'A' factor. Much has happened within the Australian Antarctic Program since taking up my appointment in November.

No doubt readers of Ice Breaker will be aware that *Aurora Australis* has encountered difficulties on its current voyage. A problem with the mechanism controlling the ship's variable pitch propeller immobilised the vessel. As always when difficulties are encountered in the Antarctic, people are working together around the clock to find solutions to some perplexing problems. We are facing major changes to our current research programs, but I fully expect ANARE meet the challenge and find ways to accommodate our ever-pressing strategic research needs in the Antarctic as we enter the new millennium.

I was very pleased to officially launch the Australian Antarctic Division's new look website on Friday 27 November. Our new site includes an array of stunning Antarctic images and a substantial collection of Antarctic information for students, teachers, researchers and the public. My favourite pages are those that provide live pictures from Antarctica. I would encourage everyone to visit the site at <<http://www.antdiv.gov.au/>>.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to make my first contribution to Ice Breaker. In the coming months I look forward to meeting many of the people that make up Tasmania's Antarctic community.

Tony Press  
Director, Australian Antarctic Division

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Australian Antarctic Division  
Channel Highway  
Kingston, Tasmania  
Australia 7050

**FOOTNOTE** — Dr Tony Press took up his position as Director of the Australian Antarctic Division on 23 November 1998. Prior to that he led the Department of the Environment's Forest Task Force (involved with implementation of the Regional Forest Agreement) and before then was the senior executive in charge of Parks Australia's northern operations, based in Darwin. He is an ecologist with specialist knowledge of the ecology of vertebrate populations.

## From Jim Playsted

While handing the TPN reins across to new Chairman Bill Lawson, I reflect upon a year of significant change for our home state of Tasmania and of continued promise for the further development of our Antarctic related trade links.

At long last Tasmania again has a majority government which despite those who will not be appeased, is producing immediate benefits in the form of increased investor confidence, so long a frustration to all with a vision for the ongoing development of the State and prosperity for those who choose to live here. We look forward to working with the Bacon Government as their plans for Tasmania unfold.

Similarly the return of the Federal Coalition government bodes well for the implementation of their "foresight" policy developed in the prior term and providing a framework as it does for the continued presence and expansion of Australian science in the Antarctic.

Meanwhile the TPN has been incorporated and is thus positioned to serve the interests of members in the many ways our mission allows –

*"To serve as a supportive organisation and advance the interests of members through networking information sharing and strategic promotion. The Tasmanian Polar Network will maintain a key interest in Antarctica related developments and will pursue a reputation for integrity and service excellence."*

Links formed and encouraged via the TPN will assist the development of Antarctic trade opportunity. With on-going support from the State Government our customers will find a friendly supply source, eager to do business and easy to deal with.

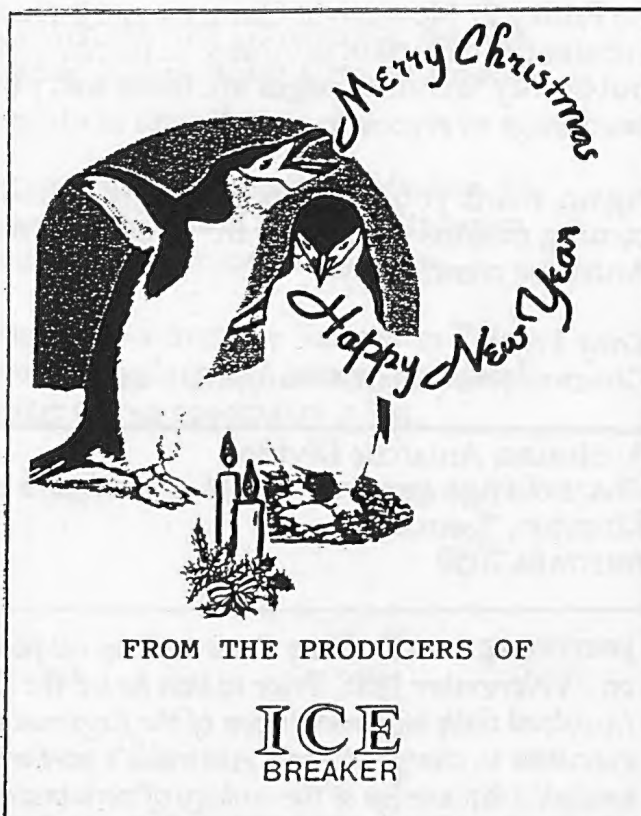
I commend the organisation to you as a focus for our mutually desired goals, the new structure by which a more commercial focus will be allowed and the capable incoming Chairman Mr Bill Lawson, to whom I shall be honoured to serve as deputy.

Thankyou to our executive members for giving time to the strategic direction of the TPN and a particularly sincere thankyou to Tony Hughson, Cordula Ruckstuhl and Debra Hill of the State Government Office of Antarctic Affairs for their assistance throughout 1998.

Again I express my appreciation for the support of the members and friends of the TPN during the past two years as Chairman and look forward with interest to the events of 1999.

*Seasons Greetings to everyone,*

*Jim Playsted*  
*Chairman 97/98*





# T.P.N. ELECTIONS

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The elections of Office Bearers for the soon-to-be incorporated Tasmanian Polar Network were held on November 2, 1998. All positions were filled uncontested by nominated TPN members. The positions are: -

President	Bill Lawson	Tasmanian Manager	Sinclair Knight Merz
Senior V.P.	Jim Playsted	Manager Polar Ops.	William Adams Pty Ltd
Vice President	Antoine Guichard	Consulting Engineer	Latitude Technologies
Treasurer	Hugh Hutchinson	Regional Director	Bureau of Meteorology
Secretary	Tony Hughson	Director	Office of Antarctic Affairs
Members' Rep.	Jack Sayers	Director	Antex-Polus Australia Pty Ltd
Members' Rep.	Geraldine Edwards	Marketing Manager	Moonraker Australia Pty Ltd
Members' Rep.	Anthea Wallhead	Marketing Manager	Malcolm Wallhead and Associates

## OFFICE BEARERS' BACKGROUNDS

BILL LAWSON manages a civil and structural engineering company involved in project management, as well as providing a consultancy and advisory service on the development, purchase and installation of waste management equipment, all of which include Antarctic engineering capability and experience.

JIM PLAYSTED's company has been manufacturing and supplying specially modified tractors and equipment to Australian, French and Italian research expeditions in Antarctica for 42 Years. He was an inaugural member of the TPN and has played a leading role in its incorporation.

ANTOINE GUICHARD's Consultancy provides advice, development solutions and feasibility studies on energy systems suited to Antarctic conditions for station designs, logistics and traverse equipment.

HUGH HUTCHINSON oversees the provision of weather forecasting services and meteorological advice for Tasmania, Antarctica and the Southern Ocean area between Australia and Antarctica.

TONY HUGHSON's Office co-ordinates and provides an information service re Antarctic related activities involving both government and TPN members. He was appointed Manager in 1993.

JACK SAYERS' many years of service at the Australian Antarctic Division provided a valuable introduction to his current role as Director of the company promoting the East Antarctic Air Link.

GERALDINE EDWARDS' company is a communications specialist concentrating on high performance antennas for use at sea, on land or mobile, including specially designed models operating in polar conditions down to -40°C.

ANTHEA WALLHEAD's business has been designing and manufacturing polar field equipment, such as the Igloo Satellite Cabin, for 16 years and has exported its products to 15 countries, mostly for use in polar conditions.

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# NEW DIRECTIONS FOR HOBART AIRPORT

Hobart Airport's future looks bright and busy judging by the positive attitude shown towards its development by the new Chief Executive Officer of HIAPL, Wayne Tucker, and the airport's potential use by Kendall Airlines, Spirit Airlines, Qantas, and the backers of the East Antarctic Air Link.

Mr Tucker, the CEO of Hobart International Airport Pty Ltd (HIAPL), recently took over from Bill Harden, the airport's transition manager. He is committed to developing a closer relationship with the community, as well as pushing for growth in traffic through the airport.

To this end, HIAPL is preparing a Master Plan for the airport which is located on 499 hectares of land 17 kms east of Hobart. The plan is now in the Statutory Consultation Phase, and comments and meetings with interested parties will be requested for a 90 day period before the Master Plan is finalised.

## NEW FLIGHTS

1. Kendall Airlines, a subsidiary of Ansett Airlines, will replace Ansett in Hobart from April 2000, except for one Ansett flight a day to Melbourne. Geoff Breust, CEO of Kendall, is planning around 10 flights a day between Hobart and Melbourne using 50-seater Canadair Regional Jets. Discount prices and meals will be available.

2. Spirit Airlines, based in Melbourne, are planning daily return flights into Hobart direct from Sydney and Melbourne from the middle of next year. Two 140-seat Boeing Jet aircraft will be used for economy class 'no-frills' flights.

3. Qantas is making no changes to its regular flights to Tasmania, but will launch a six-week direct service between Hobart and Brisbane on December 20, 1998. Unfortunately, Boeing 747s are still unable to take off from Hobart Airport fully laden with fuel and passengers for Antarctica. However,

Qantas will be conducting 10 sight-seeing flights over Antarctica again this season, between November 1998 and February 1999. Five of these flights will depart from Sydney, one from Perth and four from Melbourne, each carrying about 350 passengers. The planes will fly non-stop for 16 hours, with 3½-4 hours spent over Antarctica at a minimum altitude of 10,000 feet above sea level.

(While Hobart Airport cannot cater for fully laden Boeing 747s bound for Antarctica, perhaps Qantas could carry out a marketing survey of their Antarctica customers re their interest in touching down in Hobart on return flights, to visit Hobart's Antarctic-related attractions, and research and educational facilities as well.)

## ANTARCTIC CARGO

Despite missing out on Qantas' Antarctic flights, Hobart Airport is already well equipped to cope with Antarctic-bound, short take-off aircraft should the East Antarctic Air Link be established as proposed by the year 2000.

HIAPL's shareholders include members of the Tasmanian Polar Network, and the new Director of the Australian Antarctic Division, Dr Tony Press, has expressed a keen interest in the Air Link. Another interested TPN member is Jack Sayers, one of the Directors of the Russian-Australian company Antex-Polus Australia, which is developing specialist air transport operations in the Asia/Pacific region.

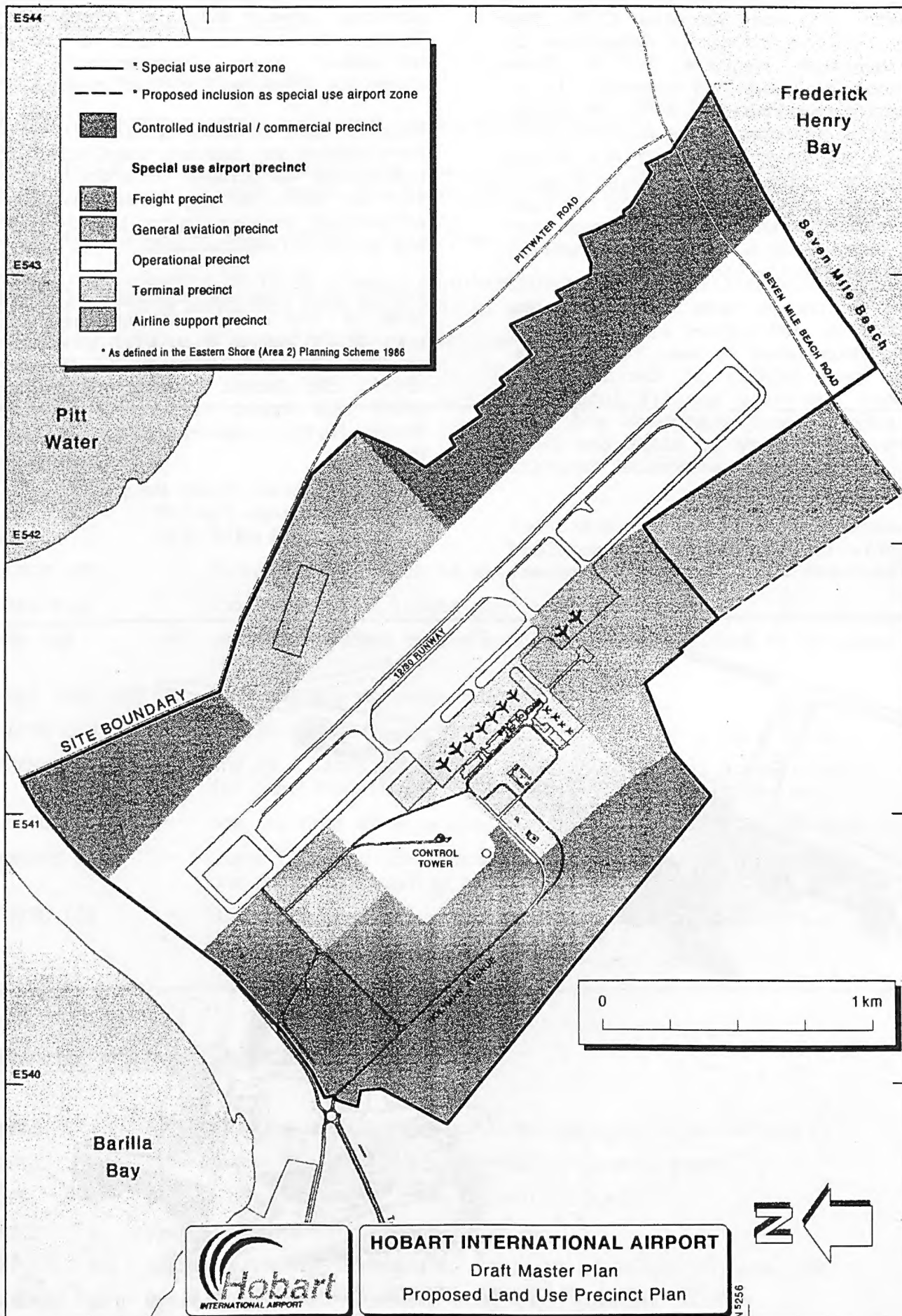
At present, several international businesses are carrying out feasibility studies on flights transporting cargo, scientists and/or tourists from Hobart to Antarctica, possibly on to South Africa, and return.

## AIRPORT CAPABILITIES

The main runway at Hobart Airport is 2251 metres long, which is more than adequate for the landing and take-off

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of cargo planes such as the Antonov 124, Ilyushin 76 and Hercules C130. The length of the runway is determined by the distance required for a plane designed to land and take-off in an ambient temperature of 24°C. To Hobart Airport's advantage, its ambient temperature is only 18°C, and the denser air allows planes to use the shorter than usual runway. Boeing 747s can also land safely within this distance, but need extra length (over 2,500 metres) to take-off fully laden.

(Hobart Airport's main runway can be extended by 500 metres within its existing boundaries to meet 747 requirements, particularly if the Tasmanian business community and its interstate and international customers and suppliers can specify to HIAPL the long-term, not seasonal, economical benefits of catering for 747s.)

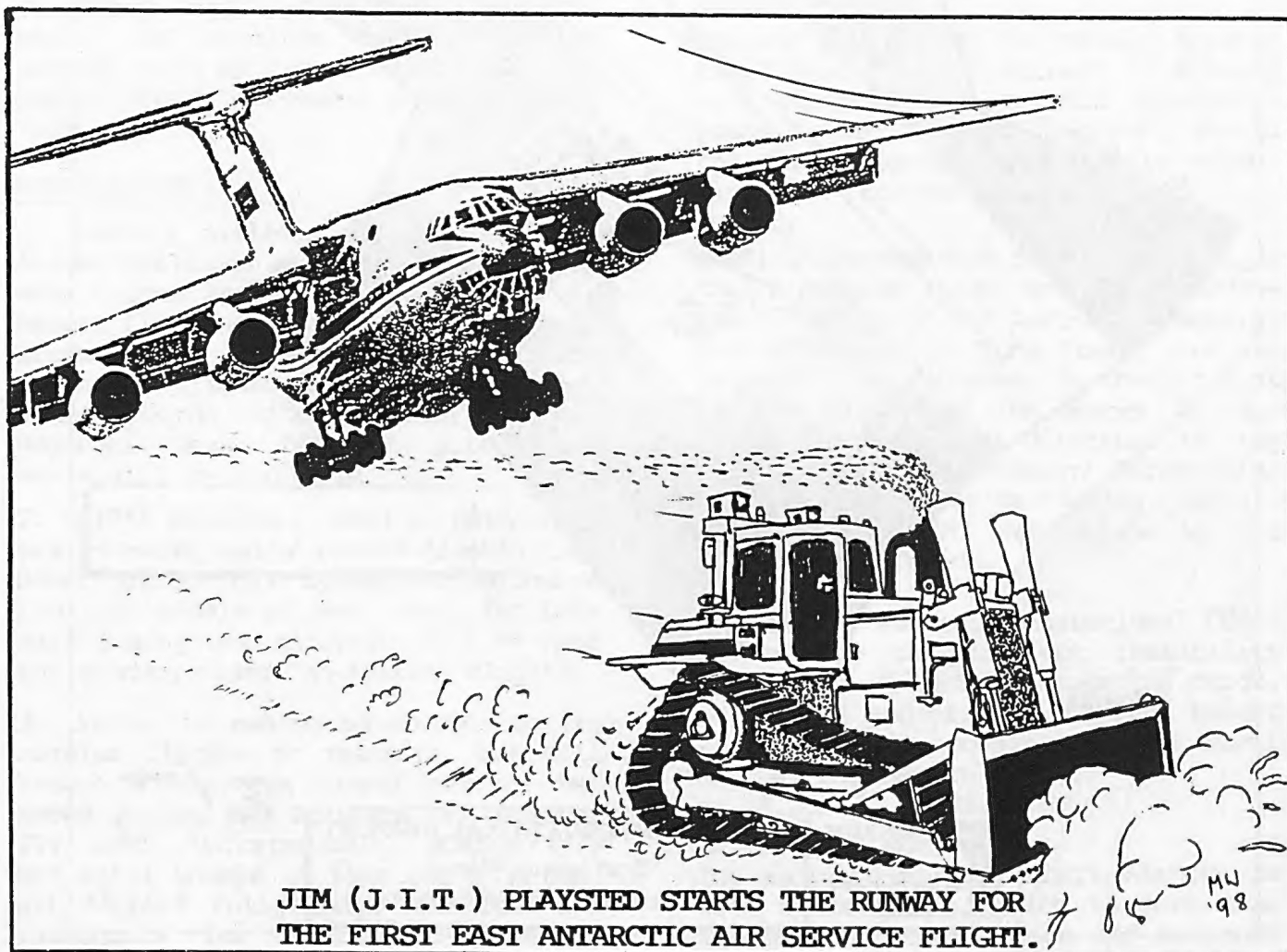
The airport also has other resources available to provide aviation services to Antarctica and these include the ex-

isting international terminal building; parking, ground handling, storage and freight facilities, as well as the use of Hobart Ports Corporation's cool store for fresh and chilled produce.

Airport land is also available for the development of support facilities for businesses associated with the Antarctic Air Link, or any other businesses advantaged by proximity to this air transport infrastructure.

Public displays and information bulletins of the Hobart International Airport Draft Master Plan will be on show at the City of Clarence (7 December 1998), the Sorell Council (8 January 1999) and Hobart Airport (1 February 1999). Further information is available from: -

Ron Vittorio (Study Manager)  
SEMF Holdings Pty Ltd  
Phone: (03) 6231 1211.



# POLAR WEB

ISOFISH: [www.isofish.org.au](http://www.isofish.org.au)

MARINE DISCOVERY CENTRE: [www.tased.edu.au/schools/marinedi](http://www.tased.edu.au/schools/marinedi)

YOUNG AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION - Sailing by ketch from South America to set up base camp near Pilcher Peak: [www.safetyweb.com.au/antarctic/](http://www.safetyweb.com.au/antarctic/)

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC DATA CENTRE: <http://www.antdiv.gov.au>

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC DIVISION - Searchable bibliography of Australian-based scientific publications resulting from Antarctic or sub-Antarctic activities:

[http://www.antdiv.gov.au/aad/p%26p/pub/pub\\_home\\_page.html](http://www.antdiv.gov.au/aad/p%26p/pub/pub_home_page.html)

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## ICE WORDS

THE ICE	-	Antarctica.
ANCHOR ICE	-	Submerged ice which is attached to the bottom.
BRASH ICE	-	The wreckage of larger pieces of ice.
FAST ICE	-	Sea ice attached to the shore or between islands or grounded bergs.
FIRST YEAR ICE	-	Floating ice not more than one year old.
FRAZIL ICE	-	Needle-shaped ice crystals forming a slush in the water.
GREASE ICE	-	Ice in a later stage of freezing than Frazil Ice; it takes its name from the matte appearance it gives to the sea.
OLD ICE	-	Sea ice that is more than two years old and up to 3m thick.
PANCAKE ICE	-	Discs of young ice, formed when waves jostle them against one another, rounding their edges.
ROTTEN ICE	-	Older ice that has severely weakened prior to melting.

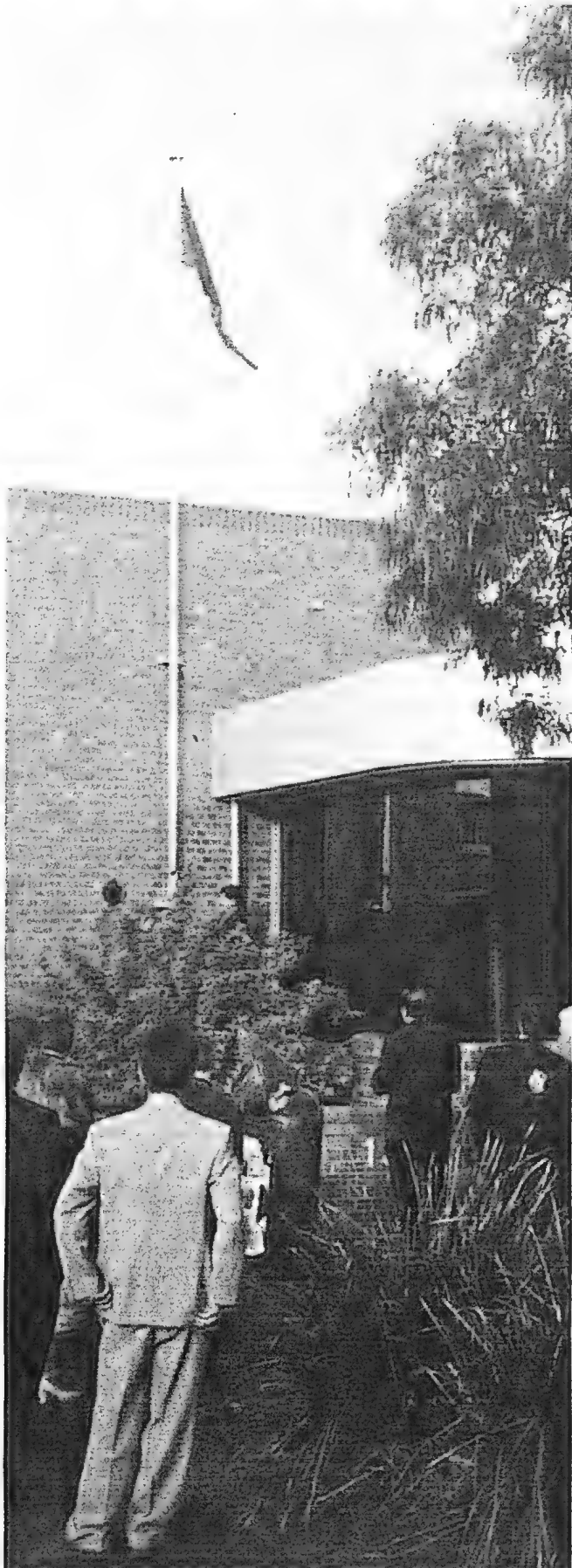
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## ANTARCTIC ACRONYMS - POLAR INSTITUTES

SANAE	:	South African National Antarctic Expedition, South Africa.
KORDI	:	Korea Ocean Research & Development Institute, Korea.
NIPR	:	National Institute of Polar Research, Japan.
INACH	:	Instituto Antartico Chileno, Chile.
NSF	:	National Science Foundation, Division of Polar Programs, USA.
SWEDARP	:	Swedish Antarctic Research Programme, Sweden.



# CCAMLR NEWS AND EVENTS



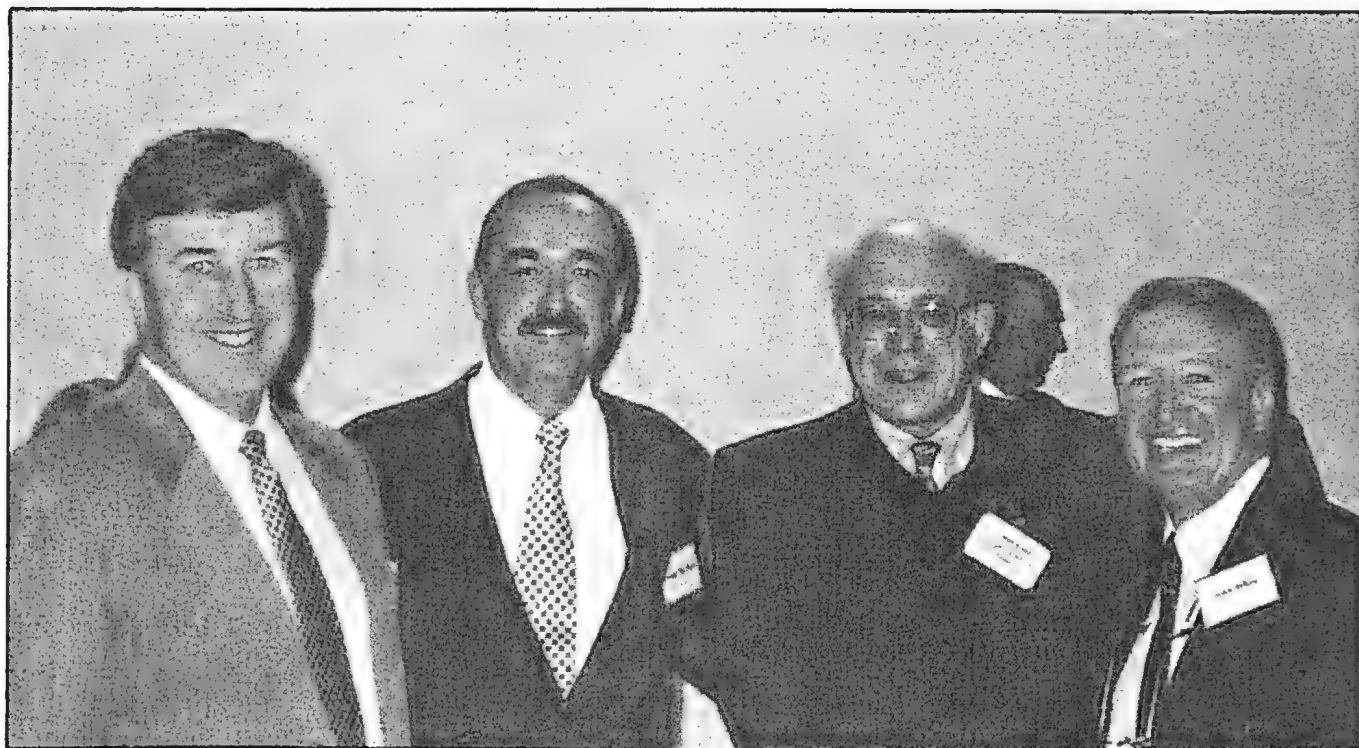
On Wednesday, October 28, 1998, the CCAMLR flag was raised for the first time outside the new premises for the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources at 137 Harrington Street, Hobart. Witnessing the ceremony were CCAMLR delegates and guests waiting to attend a reception hosted by the State Government. Those attending included the Premier and Minister for Antarctic Affairs Mr Jim Bacon and his wife Honey, as well as Peter Hodgman, John White, Tasmanian Polar Network members and over 100 Australian and overseas delegates in Hobart for CCAMLR meetings that week and the week following.

The Premier welcomed the delegates of the 28 nation commission and reiterated Peter Hodgman's assurance of Tasmania's bi-partisan support for international Antarctic secretariats such as CCAMLR.

To a great extent, this bi-partisan attitude has enabled such bodies such as CCAMLR to become more encouraged to intermix with private enterprise and other outside professionals. Everyone attending the reception appeared to enjoy the evening, and many lively discussions were held between locals and delegates from as far afield as USA, Uruguay, England and Korea. Barbara Kile, who runs a "Meet and Greet" Service called Heritage Tours of Tasmania, spent most of the evening introducing local business people to CCAMLR delegates, and an official representative from Korea was one of several guests interested to know that some of his hosts were suppliers of polar goods and services, rather than from research establishments.

Social occasions such as the CCAMLR reception provide appropriate opportunities for 'breaking the ice' between governmental, research and commercial representatives from various countries, all of whom share awareness of environmental concerns in areas such as Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.

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PETER HODGMAN(LIB), JIM BACON(PREMIER), ESTEBAN DE SALAS(CCAMLR) AND JOHN WHITE(MLC).

During the second week of CCAMLR meetings, Senator Robert Hill made an unprecedented address to the delegates re dealing more effectively with illegal fishing in the Southern Ocean, which results in the reduction of fish stocks, particularly the Patagonian Toothfish, as well as killing large numbers of sea birds such as the albatross.

Greenpeace ran their own campaign against illegal fishing during this same week by urging the public to send messages to the CCAMLR delegates; and the Royal Australian Navy representative at a concurrent "Sovereignty at Sea" conference in Hobart also urged CCAMLR to provide better protection of fish stocks because of the high cost of sending Navy patrols into the Southern Ocean.

CCAMLR responded by adopting a number of Australian proposals, including:

- the mandatory use of satellite-linked vessel monitoring systems (by the end of 2000),
- the increased reporting of potentially illegal vessels,
- improving the Commission's vessel register, and

- tightening licensing and port access controls.

However, a catch certification, to prevent trade in illegally caught fish has been deferred, and Senator Hill is concerned that Toothfish populations in some areas are under such immediate pressure from illegal fishing that valuable natural and economic resources will now be lost.

#### IN BRIEF

WHAT : CCAMLR  
 WHERE : 137 Harrington Street,  
 Hobart, 7000.  
 PHONE : (03) 6231 0366  
 FAX : (03) 6234 9965  
 E-MAIL : ccamlr@ccamlr.org

AW

**ICE  
 BREAKER**

# POLAR NEWS

WELCOME BACK

## HIGHEST FINES

Such is Australia's increasing concern with fish poaching, that a Western Australian court recently assigned the highest ever fines for illegal fishing in the Southern Ocean. The Skipper and Fishing Master were each fined \$50,000 and the company owner of the boat fined \$100,000, as well as having the option of forfeiture of the boat or loss of a \$1 million bond.

## STRANDED AGAIN

AURORA AUSTRALIS is again experiencing difficulties and is stranded off the Antarctic coast because of mechanical problems affecting its propeller. The dates on the Shipping Calendar for AURORA AUSTRALIS must only be taken as intended dates and should be checked for accuracy with the Antarctic Division.

ICE BREAKER magazine would like to welcome back Tony Hughson, Director of the Office of Antarctic Affairs, from his 68 day Antarctic 'holiday'. We understand that Tony has returned with some positive ideas which with close TPN collaboration and co-operation will result in major benefits to Tasmania's polar community. Tony's new E-mail address is: [thughson@oaa.tas.gov.au](mailto:thughson@oaa.tas.gov.au)

## ANTHEA'S WORD

It is encouraging to know that the Tasmanian Polar Network now has 32 financial members and that plans for several projects involving all members are already being made by the newly elected TPN Committee.

Subscribers to ICE BREAKER are still increasing and we look forward to a promising 1999.





# POLAR NEWS

## POLAR MOVES

The new Labor Premier of Tasmania, Mr Jim Bacon, is also the new Minister for Antarctic Affairs, replacing Liberal Minister Mr Peter Hodgman, who is now Shadow Minister for that portfolio. The Premier will be ably assisted by Mr John White, the former Shadow Minister and now the newly elected Legislative Council Member for Newdegate.

Dr Tony Press is the new Director of the Australian Antarctic Division. He is replacing Mr Rex Moncur who is retiring after 10 years as Division Head. Dr Press, 45, previously worked for the Federal Environment Department, and started his new job on November 23, 1998.

Professor Patrick Quilty left the Australian Antarctic Division in November 1998 and will be working at the Geology Department of the University of Tasmania. His position as Assistant Director Science at the AAD will be taken by Professor Michael Stoddart, formerly from the University of New England (NSW). Professor Stoddart was also the Antarctic Science Advisory Committee's Chairman responsible for the Foresight Report on Australia's Antarctic Programme Beyond 2000.

Senator Robert Hill is now the Federal Minister responsible for Antarctic matters. He replaces Senator Ian MacDonald and is assisted by Mr James Shevlin, who attended a Tasmanian Polar Network meeting on November 2, 1998. Senator Hill visited Hobart during the recent CCAMLR meetings to address the Commission on the protection of marine life in the CCAMLR controlled areas of the Southern Ocean.

## ANTARCTIC RUNWAY

Representatives from both Russia and Australia travelled to Progress II station with the Chinese this season to begin work on a new runway site. Russia is currently working on the environmental assessment for the runway, which could be operational next season.

## NEW MANAGER

Welcome to Gary Prosser, the new General Manager of P&O Polar, who replaces the late John Gleeson. Gary oversaw AURORA AUSTRALIS' repairs which were completed and tested in time for Voyage 4. The ship left Hobart on October 29 and is scheduled to return on Christmas Day 1998.

## EXPORT AWARD

Congratulations to W Chung Sing & Co for winning the Services Award in the Tasmanian Section of the 1998 Australian Export Awards.

## POLAR ROBOT

NASA's "Nomad" robot vehicle is being prepared at Punta Arenas, Chile, for an unmanned expedition searching for meteorites and polar rocks in Antarctica. The robot is activated by satellite from NASA headquarters and a team of 12 scientists from Chile, USA, France, Canada and South Africa are participating in the program this year. Details of its traverse are not currently available.

## PORT ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to Chris Drinkwater and Hobart Ports Corporation for their success in attracting 27 cruise ships to Hobart between November and March next year, as well as catering for an increase in naval vessels and Antarctic bound ships.

## POLAR APEX

Early next year the Apex movement in Tasmania intends to hold discussions with expeditioners regarding the establishment of a four-base network of clubs in Antarctica. Using existing communication systems, Casey, Davis, Mawson and Macquarie Island bases would be interlinked to extend Apex's advocacy of their environmental project called "Clean Up the World".

The State President of Apex, Mr David Stearnes, has received clearance from the Federal Government for discussions to be held, and is awaiting a response from the Australian Antarctic Division re a suitable time for these to take place.

# TASMANIAN MADE BASE FOR CHILE

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Malcolm Wallhead and Associates received an order for six blue extended Igloo Satellite Cabins from the Chilean Air Force - Antarctic Division this year.

Designed as a winter base for 12 people, 4 sleeping/working Igloos are interconnected with tunnels to a 5th, central cooking/dining unit. The 6th Cabin is a separate Sanitary Unit with showers, toilets and wash trough.

To ensure the Sanitary Unit complied with Madrid Protocol recommendations re appropriate waste management practices, MW&A sought advice from the Australian Antarctic Division, and purchased acceptable basic toilet and shower components. Information about the proper use of these facilities will be passed on to the Chileans.

Rod Ledingham, Field Equipment Officer, and Sandra Potter from the Environmental Management Section of the AAD, provided MW&A with the following relevant parts of the Madrid Protocol - Articles 2,3,4 & 5 Annex III (Waste Disposal and Waste Management): -

"\* wastes generated at field camps should, if practicable, be transferred to their supporting stations or ships for disposal.

\* inland stations - may dispose of sewage in deep ice pits if this is the only practicable option (but not those on known ice flow lines which terminate at ice free areas or in areas of high ablation).

\* coastal - sewage and domestic liquid wastes may be discharged directly into the sea where conditions exist for initial dilution and rapid dispersal - dispersal of such wastes onto sea ice, ice shelves or grounded ice sheets is not permitted.

\* sewage discharged into sea from sites where average weekly occupancy is thirty or more must be macerated.

\* combustible material should be burnt however open burning is to be phased out by the end of this summer. "

Quantities of items required to complete the Chilean order included 700 fibreglass items; 72 wall panels including 13 doors; 45 floor panels and 158 floor joining plates; 200 shelves for 20 shelf units; 72 aluminium tie-down lugs; 63 steel tie-down lines, and 413 packages and panels fitting into 2 sea containers.

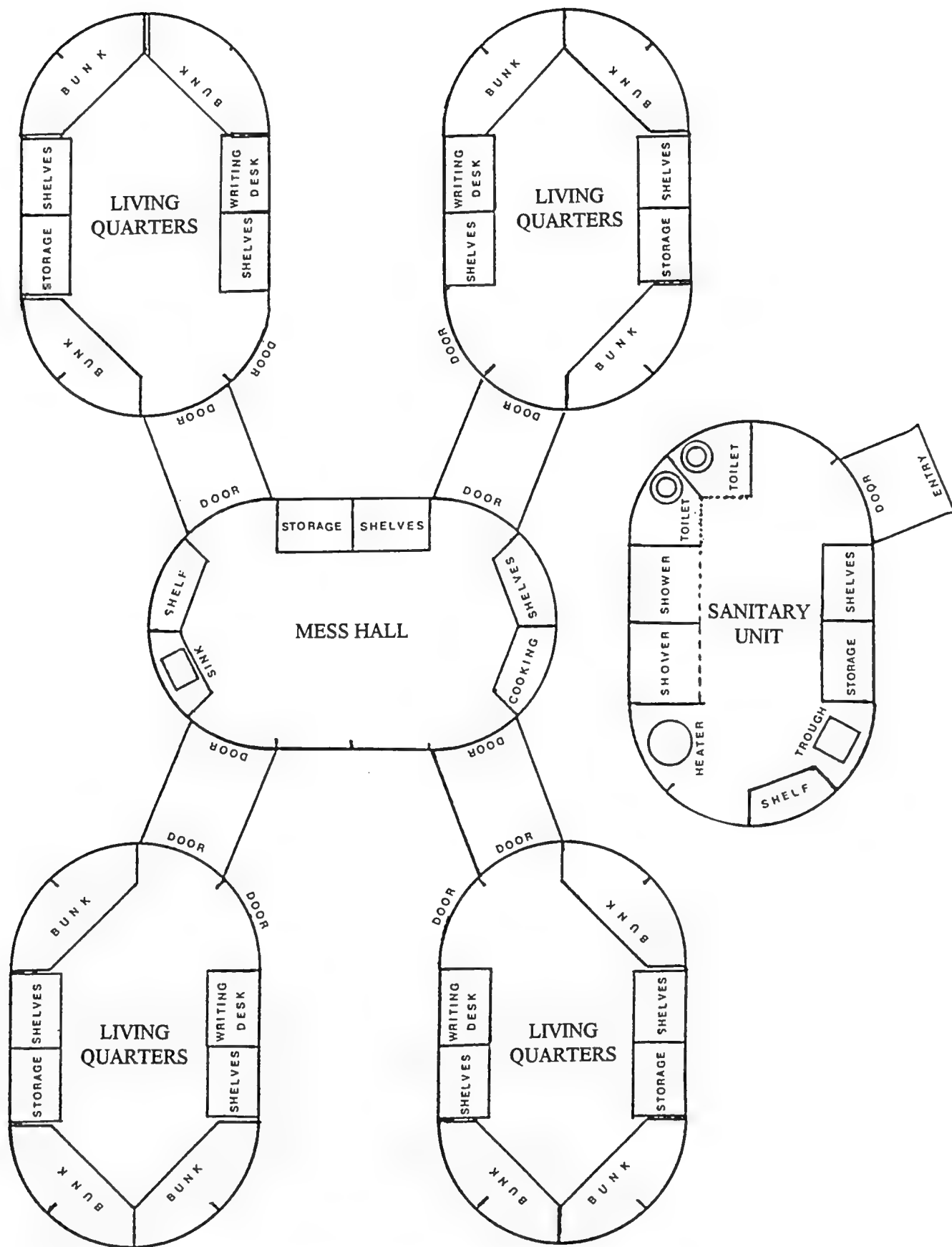
The Igloos and accessories have been shipped to Chile and are due to arrive in mid January 1999. This order will bring the total number of Igloos made so far to 128.

Igloo Satellite Cabins have been purchased by polar institutes in 15 countries, and there are now over 100 in Antarctica. The Chilean order offered an ideal opportunity for two Tasmanian Polar Network members - Malcolm Wallhead and Associates (known for their environmentally-friendly fibreglass Igloos) and the Australian Antarctic Division (leading proponent of Madrid Protocol recommendations) - to collaborate to provide the most suitable sanitary facilities for the Chileans.

It is expected that more examples of co-operative ventures between research and commercial bodies will be evident next year.

The Chilean Government is to be complimented for its willingness to comply with Madrid Protocol recommendations, by ordering a small base which is designed to operate without causing major environmental damage. This is because the Igloos can be sited fairly permanently, but need no concrete foundations or footings, and will leave very little trace of their presence once removed.

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# POLAR NEWS

## POLAR TRAVERSE

A 3000 km trek over the icy wastes of Antarctica, tracing the footsteps taken by British explorer Robert Falcon Scott in 1912, began at NZ's Scott Base on November 3, 1998. New Zealander Peter Hillary, son of Everest conquerer Sir Edmund Hillary, and 2 Australians, Jon Muir and Eric Phillips, each intend to haul 180 kg of food, fuel and equipment to the South Pole and back in 100 days.

Vital to their survival are 2 items unavailable to Scott at the time of his ill-fated journey.

One is a 15 kg double-walled, polyethylene sled which is a result of a co-operative project involving Melbourne's RMIT Department of Aerospace Engineering and Nylex Rotomould. Designed to carry up to 150 kg of cargo and withstand temperatures as low as -50°C, the sled has been moulded from cross-linked polyethylene and can withstand the impact of a 10 kg cannon-ball.

The other new piece of equipment is an Iridium mobile satellite phone - promoted as a world first - which relies on a network of low-earth orbiting satellites that allow communication from anywhere in the world.

The last update on the trek stated that the walkers were behind schedule because of headwinds, but they still expected to be at the South Pole by Christmas Day.

## ARCTIC RESCUE

Australian cameraman Roy McGuinness, was one of a 3-man film crew recently rescued from Vrangelya Island in the Arctic Ocean when early winter blizzards prevented their return to Moscow. The men were confined on the island for 6 weeks before a helicopter was able to fly in and rescue them.

## JAPANESE WHALING

Japan's whaling fleet, including the first new whaler built in 26 years, is again headed for the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, to kill their annual quota of whales for so-called scientific research purposes.

However, on November 26, the mother ship was stranded in the Pacific Ocean when a fire broke out in the freezer section of the ship. If the ship has to be towed back to Japan for repairs and another mission sent out before the season ends in March 1999, then it is likely that fewer than the expected 440 minke whales will be caught.

Greenpeace consider these culls to be commercial whaling, and Japan continues to ignore the International Whaling Commission's resolution which calls on Japan to stop issuing permits for the taking of minke whales in southern waters.

## PHYSIO ON ICE

Four doctors working at summer bases in Antarctica this year have received special training in Hobart in preparation for medical problems requiring physiotherapy. The doctors - one each from South Australia and Queensland and two from NSW - are posted to Mawson, Davis and Casey bases as well as Macquarie Island.

Members of the Australian Physiotherapy Association conducted sessions for the doctors on backs and necks, manual handling, and upper and lower limb sprains and strains. The injury preventative techniques learned should assist the doctors treating injuries caused by slipping and falling on ice and snow (likely when unloading goods from supply ships or moving around a base) or spraining ankles or knees (as caused by Macquarie Island's boggy ground).

The physiotherapy course was important because of the extreme isolation of Antarctica, and the need for immediate treatment rather than delayed rehabilitation on return to Australia.

# POLAR NEWS

## SOUTHERN OCEAN RESEARCH

The German research vessel RV SONNE docked in Hobart for a day on November 12, 1998, after completing a month long research cruise to investigate the climatic and oceanographic history of the ocean basins of the Tasman Sea and Southern Ocean.

This area is a crucial segment of the Antarctic Circumpolar Current System which has a significant impact on global climate. The research team collected sediment cores, plankton and water samples, as well as carrying out acoustic surveys of the sea-floor topography and sub-bottom sedimentary structures. The sediment cores, which complement Antarctic ice core studies, trace the changes in ocean circulation, climate and atmospheric carbon dioxide over the past several hundred thousand years.

The Chief Scientist on board was Professor Jörn Thiede, Director of the Alfred-Wegener-Institute in Bremerhaven Germany, who expressed interest in strengthening links between German and Australian institutions, particularly in Hobart, for future collaboration.

The Science Co-ordinator was Dr Stefan Nees of GEOMAR, Kiel, Germany, and among the 25 scientists from Germany, NZ, France and Australia were Dr Will Howard and Dr Claire Findlay of the Antarctic CRC, as well as Dr Peter Hill of the Australian Geological Survey Organisation. The crew of 30 was captained by Master Hartmut Andresen of the RF Shipping Company, Bremen.

During the afternoon of the day visit the Captain, Chief Scientist, Science Co-ordinator and Will Howard and Professor Pat Quilty were received by the Governor of Tasmania, and a reception was later held on board the SONNE for approximately 50 scientists, community leaders and representatives of Hobart's German community.

Hobart Port and Tasmanian Polar Network members have now hosted crew and scientists from overseas Antarctic and Southern Ocean research vessels from China, Japan, Russia, France, Italy, Germany, USA and New Zealand.

For further information on the SONNE research cruise, see:-  
[http://www.antcrc.utas.edu.au/antcrc/media/TASQWA\\_Facts.html](http://www.antcrc.utas.edu.au/antcrc/media/TASQWA_Facts.html)

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# SUB - POLAR PLANT HOUSE DEVELOPMENTS

Situated at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens (RTBG) in Hobart is the Australian Antarctic Foundation Sub-Antarctic Plant House, which has been designed to provide a living display of plant life on Macquarie Island, 1300 kms to the south of Tasmania.

Sponsored by the Australian Antarctic Foundation, as well as Tasmanian businesses and individuals, the construction of the building is now complete. However, commissioning of the Plant House cannot be undertaken until funding is found for the paintings on the interior walls which will depict various Macquarie Island landscapes.

The temperature in the Plant House will be monitored so that the cool climate of Macquarie Island is replicated and maintained. Visitors to the Plant House will be greeted with a misty atmosphere created by air conditioning, overhead sprinklers and underground cooling pipes, all of which will be activated once the murals are completed.

David Bedford, Director of the RTBG, travelled to Macquarie Island in 1994 to collect some plant material (which requires a special permit) and photograph the flora, fauna and terrain. Earlier this month Jim Crane, one of the Garden's horticulturalists, returned from the Island with ten drums of plants for the Plant House and more detailed information about their natural environment. All these samples have augmented those which research scientists from the University of Queensland have been collecting for the Botanical Gardens for several years.

As well as being a new attraction for visitors to the Gardens, the Plant House will be the focus of a major research project based on climate change and the potential food value and

horticultural possibilities of the Island's plant life. The Garden's partners in this project are the University of Queensland, the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service and the Australian National Botanical Gardens. These researchers seek to understand the ecological processes and environmental factors that govern sub-Antarctic plant communities and plant species.

The nurturing of the Macquarie Island plants at the Botanical Gardens has been supervised by Mark Fountain, the Horticultural Operations Manager, and Nursery staff. Samples of over 30 different plants are awaiting re-establishment in the Plant House, including the edible Macquarie Island Cabbage (*Stilbocarpa Polaris*). Pots of cabbage, cushion plants, ferns, grasses, buttercups and 'buzzies' are now growing successfully in refrigerated containers at the RTBG, and Mark says they will grow even more luxuriantly in the Plant House.

Sponsors are now being sought to complete the interior of the Plant House with murals evoking the rugged and beautiful environment of Macquarie Island.

Tasmanian businesses wishing to contribute to a significant, Antarctic-related scientific research reference centre and tourist attraction are urged to consider funding this worthwhile project, and suggestions for likely sponsors, enquiries and sponsorship proposals can be directed to:-

Mark Fountain  
Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens  
Phone: (03) 6234 6299  
Fax: (03) 6234 7719  
Email: [markf@rtbg.tas.gov.au](mailto:markf@rtbg.tas.gov.au)





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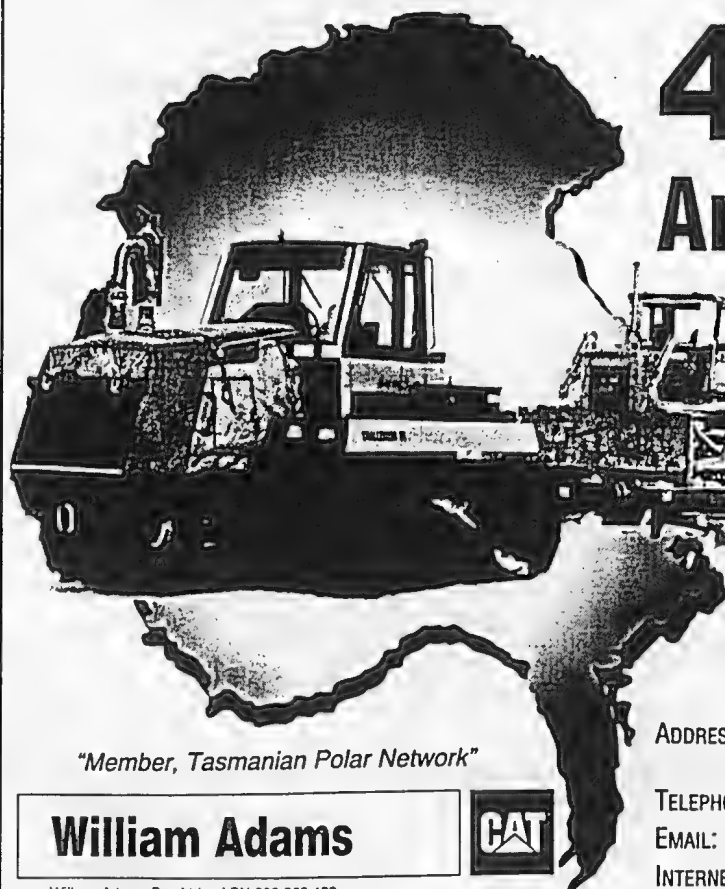
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INTERNET: <http://www.wadams.com.au>

# POLAR CALENDAR

2	December	1998	TPN Committee meeting, Office of Antarctic Affairs.HOBART.
3-4	December	1998	XXI Symposium on Polar Biology. National Institute of Polar Research, Tokyo, Japan. Email: iwao@nipr.ac.jp
7-9	December	1998	COMNAP Committee meetings. HOBART.
10-15	January	1999	79th AMS Annual Meeting and the Fifth Conference on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography, Dallas, Texas, USA. Email: drobins@rci.rutgers.edu
22	January	1999	TPN meeting, ANARE Room, Antarctic Adventure. 11.00 am - 1.00 pm. HOBART.
25-28	January	1999	26 Country Political Conference re Antarctic Treaty matters. Scott Base(NZ), McMurdo Base(USA). ANTARCTICA.
12-15	March	1999	Workshop on the Evolutionary Biology of Antarctic Organisms, Curitiba, Brazil. Email: esfanta@bio.ufpr.br
16-19	March	1999	ICES/SCOR Joint Symposium on the Ecosystem Effects on Fishing, Montpellier, France. Email: hg@dfu.min.dk
30	May	1999-	ISOPE-99. The 9th International Offshore and Polar Engineering Conference and Exhibition, Brest, France.
4	June	1999	
5-9	July	1999	SCAR VIII International Symposium on Antarctic Earth Sciences. Email: ISAES@gns.cri.nz

# POLAR PUBLICATIONS

## BOOKS:

"ICE STATION: ANTARCTICA IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE" by Matthew Reilly. Published by Pan Macmillan. Price: \$22.95. (Available from ABC SHOP).

A novel about US scientists discovering a metallic object trapped inside a 100 million year old layer of ice. "More explosive than DIE HARD and faster than SPEED!"

"ANTARCTIC DAYS WITH MAWSON: a personal account of the British, Australian and NZ Antarctic Research Expedition of 1929-31" by Harold Fletcher. Published by Angus & Robertson 1984. Price: \$50. (Available from ASTROLABE BOOKSELLERS).

## VIDEO:

THE LAST HUSKY. The final journey of Antarctic sledge dogs. Price: \$29.95. (available the ABC SHOP.)



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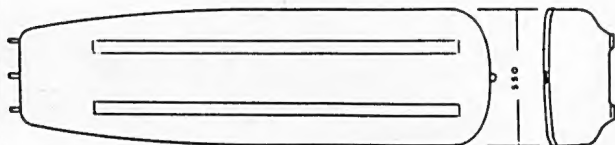
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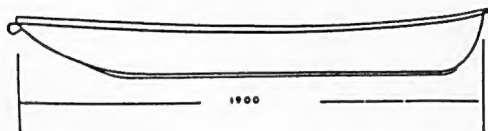
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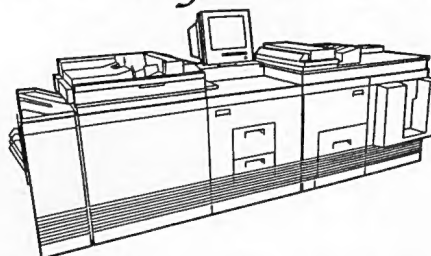


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# THE BACK PAGE

## ANTARCTIC AND SOUTHERN OCEAN SHIPPING CALENDAR

12	December	1998	POLAR SEA	Arrives Hobart
18	December	1998	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Casey Base
26	December	1998	AURORA AUSTRALIS V4	Arrives Hobart
28	December	1998	AURORA AUSTRALIS V5	Departs Hobart for Casey Base
28	December	1998	ITALICA	Arrives Hobart for resupply
4	January	1999	SOUTHERN SURVEYOR	Departs Hobart
4-7	January	1999	AURORA AUSTRALIS V5	Casey Base
5-6	January	1999	L'ASTROLABE	Arrives Hobart, departs for Antarctica
8	January	1999	SKY PRINCESS	Arrives Hobart, departs for NZ
10	January	1999-		
7	February	1999	AURORA AUSTRALIS V5	Marine Science - Geoscience
12	January	1999	SOUTHERN SURVEYOR	Arrives Hobart
15	January	1999	SOUTHERN SURVEYOR	Departs Hobart
15	January	1999	KAPITAN KHLEBNIKOV	Arrives Hobart, departs for Antarctica
24	January	1999	ASUKA	Arrives Hobart, departs for Dunedin NZ
27-28	January	1999	L'ASTROLABE	Arrives Hobart, departs for Antarctica
28	January	1999	SKY PRINCESS	Arrives Hobart from NZ, departs for Melb.
4	February	1999-		
30	June	1999	SOUTHERN SURVEYOR	In Hobart
4	February	1999	COLUMBUS	Arrives Hobart from NZ, departs for Devonport
5	February	1999	SKY PRINCESS	Arrives Hobart, departs for NZ
7-8	February	1999	KAPITAN KHLEBNIKOV	Arrives Hobart, departs for Antarctica
8-10	February	1999	AURORA AUSTRALIS V5	Wilkes Land Coast Studies
11-13	February	1999	AURORA AUSTRALIS V5	Retrieve Polynya Buoys
16-17	February	1999	L'ASTROLABE	Arrives Hobart, departs for Antarctica
19	February	1999	AURORA AUSTRALIS V5	Arrives Hobart
22	February	1999	AURORA AUSTRALIS V6	Departs Hobart for Mawson Base
25	February	1999	SKY PRINCESS	Arrives Hobart from NZ, departs for Melb.
27	February	1999-		
2	March	1999	SNOW DRAGON	Arrives Hobart from Antarctica
5	March	1999	SKY PRINCESS	Arrives Hobart, departs for NZ
7-12	March	1999	AURORA AUSTRALIS V6	Mawson Base
8-9	March	1999	MARCO POLO	Arrives Hobart from NZ, departs for Devonport
13	March	1999	L'ASTROLABE	Arrives Hobart from Antarctica



## FROM THE PREMIER'S DESK

I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to contribute to this Christmas edition of Ice Breaker. The members of the Tasmanian Polar Network will appreciate that, since taking office, my Government has been busy catching up with the developments in the State in a whole range of areas. Not the least of these was the area concerned with your business, the business of Antarctic resupply.

The first decision of the Government in Antarctica matters was to move the Office of Antarctic Affairs from the old Department of Environment and Land Management to the new Department of State Development. I believe this decision was logical, because it provided this small office with support in the critical areas of business development, planning and marketing. As an area with potential, Antarctic business opportunities need to be coordinated with opportunities that may exist within other areas of State development. The assistance of the Department of State Development and the involvement of the Office of Antarctic Affairs in the Department will ensure that coordination will happen.

In addition, recognising the importance of the Antarctic to the State of Tasmania, I decided to retain the ministerial responsibility for the portfolio.

I appreciate that within Tasmania we have a great deal of Antarctic expertise. That expertise is contained not only in the research and education institutions of our State but is also held inside private industry by way of association, and the supply of both national and international expeditions. I am told those associations reach back nearly 200 years and the expertise covers an extremely wide range of commercial and professional interests.

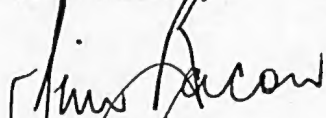
My Government intends to create a stable environment within the State that will encourage investment and development in a wide spectrum of industries. I trust those industries associated with Antarctic resupply will become part of that growth that I believe is Tasmania's natural future.

The previous Government's bipartisan approach to Antarctica matters had merit. The stability that resulted from a unified parliamentary process encouraged achievement in this area. At the recent CCAMLR headquarters night, and later in the Parliament, I took the opportunity to reinforce that the Tasmanian commitment to Antarctica is a commitment of the State of Tasmania and not just one particular government. In addition, I gave an unqualified assurance that the previous Minister, Hon Peter Hodgman, MHA, would be included in Antarctic matters as appropriate along with the member for Newdegate, Hon John White, MLC.

As I write this, I see that I will be meeting with your Chairman Mr Bill Lawson. After this meeting, I expect to have a far better appreciation of how the Government may provide assistance to help you achieve your expectations.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the members of the Tasmanian Polar Network and other readers of your magazine a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I trust 1999 will foster the development of a strong relationship between my Government and the TPN that will encourage the recognition of Tasmania as the pre-eminent gateway to Antarctica.

Yours sincerely



*Jim Bacon*  
Premier

*Minister for State Development*

